

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a message distribution center, a phone number only experience provided by:
  - 5 a database associating subscriber MIN numbers with servicing carriers;
  - a database associating carriers with routing syntax; and
  - an inter-carrier messaging module to receive a digital message packet addressed with only a MIN number, to perform a lookup
  - 10 in said database associating subscriber MIN numbers and in said database associating carriers with routing syntax, and to add routing syntax determined from said lookup to said MIN number.
2. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,
  - 15 wherein:  
said digital message packet is an e-mail.
3. In a message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:
  - 20 said database associating subscriber MIN numbers with servicing carriers and said database associating carriers with routing syntax are in a common database.
4. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,
  - 25 wherein:  
said MIN is a phone number.
5. In a message distribution center according to claim 4, wherein:
  - 30 said digital message packet is an e-mail.

6. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,  
wherein:

said message distribution center forms a store and forward  
messaging platform.

5

7. A method of providing a phone number only experience  
to a subscriber, comprising the steps of:

receiving an initial digital message packet addressed to a  
MIN only;

10

associating a carrier providing service to said MIN;

formulating a new digital message packet including a body  
of said initial digital message packet and newly addressed to said MIN  
with a syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN;  
and

15

routing said new digital message packet.

8. The method of providing a phone number only  
experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

said initial digital message packet is an e-mail.

20

9. The method of providing a phone number only  
experience to a subscriber according to claim 8, wherein:

said new digital message packet is an e-mail.

25

10. The method of providing a phone number only  
experience to a subscriber according to claim 9, wherein:

said MIN is a phone number.

11. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

said phone number only addressed digital message packet is received at, and said new digital message packet is routed from, a service bureau.

12. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

said MIN is a phone number.

13. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 7, wherein:

said MIN with said added syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN forms a routable address.

14. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 13, wherein:

said routable address is an e-mail address.

15. Apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber, comprising:

means for receiving an initial digital message packet addressed to a MIN only;

means for associating a carrier providing service to said MIN;

means for formulating a new digital message packet including a body of said initial digital message packet and newly addressed to said MIN with a syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN; and

means for routing said new digital message packet.

16. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:  
said initial digital message packet is an e-mail.

5 17. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 16, wherein:  
said new digital message packet is an e-mail.

10 18. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 17, wherein:  
said MIN is a phone number.

15 19. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:  
said phone number only addressed digital message packet is received at, and said new digital message packet is routed from, a service bureau.

20 20. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:  
said MIN is a phone number.

25 21. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 15, wherein:  
said MIN with said added syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN forms a routable address.

30 22. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 21, wherein:  
said routable address is an e-mail address.